



CATAWBA COUNTY Public Health

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For Release: Immediately – 6/27/07

Regional Preparedness Exercise Builds Partnerships

Catawba County Public Health was the “Host” agency for a North Carolina Public Health Preparedness and Response (PHP&R) Region 7 Mass Dispensing Exercise. The exercise was held on Wednesday, June 20th, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the American Legion Fairgrounds.



The United States Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) via a directive from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires every local Public Health agency to have a plan for dispensing medications to the public and to test the plan. In an emergency situation, medications would be dispensed to the public for the purpose of preventing and treating disease. This was a unique exercise involving twelve North Carolina Counties, five State agencies and three Federal agencies. Over 100 participants and volunteers drove golf carts to exercise the dispensing of medications to the general public in a “Drive Thru” format.

“Conducting the exercise with local and regional state partners allowed us to further build relationships and to address public health issues in the event of a real emergency,” said Doug Urland, Health Director for Catawba County Public Health and acting Incident Commander. “Public Health along with community partners continue to work to protect the public’s health by being prepared and ready to respond.”

Several businesses assisted with the exercise including: Ace Hardware of Hickory, Lowe’s Hardware of Hickory, Terry Moore Ford of Conover, Club Car Corporate, Carolina Golf Carts of Charlotte, Krispy Kreme, Subway, and the American Legion Fairgrounds.

There were also multiple Catawba County partners that collaborated to make this event possible including: American Red Cross, Catawba County Emergency Management, Catawba County Emergency Medical Services, Catawba County Managers Office, Catawba County Personnel, Catawba County Public Health, Catawba County Sheriff’s Office, Catawba County Social Services, Catawba County United Way, Catawba Valley Medical Center, Catawba Valley Community College, Claremont Police Department, Compounding Pharmacy, Conover Police Department, Frye Regional Medical Center, Hickory Fire Department, Hickory Police Department, Lenoir-Rhyne College, Maiden Police Department, Medical Village Pharmacy, Newton Police Department, NC Highway Patrol, and NC DOT.

For more information, contact the Catawba County Public Health Department at 828-695-5800 or visit the web site at: <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/phealth/>.